IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Theodore D. Wugofski	Examiner: Unknown
Serial No.:	Unknown	Group Art Unit: Unknown
Filed:	Herewith	Docket: 450.256US2
Title:	PROGRAMMABLE GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE CONTROL SYSTEM AND METHOD	

(Continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/237,483, filed January 26, 1999)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified continuation application as follows:

In the Specification

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following new section:

RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation under 37 CFR 1.53(b) of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/237,483 filed January 26, 1999, which application is incorporated herein by reference.

At page 7, please delete the last paragraph and replace it with the following:

--The graphical user interface of the embodiments of the invention overcomes the limited OSDs and lack of windowing in many consumer electronics appliances. This allows the user to access the functionality of the various appliances which may be present.--

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 2-6 and 8-11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please substitute the claim set in the appendix entitled Clean Version of Pending Claims for the previously pending claim set. The substitute claim set is intended to reflect cancellation

of claims 2-6 and 8-11, amendment of previously pending claims 1 and 7, and addition of new

claims 12-29. The specific amendments to individual claims are detailed in the following

marked up set of claims.

1. (Amended) A software module <u>stored on a machine readable medium</u> for programming a

graphical user interface, responsive to functionality information supplied by or retrieved from an

application or applet, the software capable of modifying the graphical user interface when a new

application or applet is launched<u>, wherein modifying the graphical user interface further</u>

<u>comprises adding new functionality of the new application or applet to the graphical user</u>

<u>interface if the new functionality does not already exist in the graphical user interface</u>.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Amended)   A shared graphical user interface capable of control of a plurality of computer

applications or applets, the shared graphical user interface being defined and redefined as

different applications or applets are launched, by receiving information from the applets or from

software designed to retrieve the functionality of the applications or applets<u>, wherein redefining</u>

<u>the shared graphical user interface further comprises adding new functionality of the applications</u>

<u>or applets to the shared graphical user interface if the new functionality does not already exist in</u>

<u>the graphical user interface</u>.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (New) A computer system, comprising:

a central processing unit; and

a machine readable medium comprising machine readable instructions, which when read and executed by the central processing unit, cause the computer system to perform a method comprising:

defining a graphical user interface responsive to functionality of a first application loaded onto the computer system, and

redefining the graphical user interface responsive to functionality of a second application loaded onto the computer so as to control both the first and the second applications with the graphical user interface, wherein redefining further comprises adding the functionality of the second application to the graphical user interface if the functionality of the second application does not already exist in the graphical user interface.

13. (New) The computer system of claim 12, wherein defining the graphical user interface further comprises:

adding each function of the first application to the graphical user interface; and registering each function of the application for notification by the graphical user interface when a user initiates a command calling for a registered function.

14. (New) The computer system of claim 12, wherein redefining the graphical user interface further comprises:

retrieving the functionality of the second application.

15. (New) The computer system of claim 14, wherein redefining the graphical user interface further comprises:

comparing each function of the second application with functions of the defined graphical

user interface.

16. (New) The computer system of claim 15, wherein redefining the graphical user interface

further comprises:

registering the function of the second application with the database for notification by the

graphical user interface when a user initiates a command calling for the registered function if the

function of the new application is already present in the graphical user interface.

17. (New) The computer system of claim 15, wherein redefining the graphical user interface

further comprises:

adding the function of the second application to the graphical user interface if the

function of the new application is not already present in the graphical user interface.

18. (New) The computer system of claim 15, wherein redefining the graphical user interface

comprises:

registering the function of the second application for notification by the graphical user

interface when a command is initiated that calls for the registered function.

19. (New) The computer system of claim 12, wherein the graphical user interface allows access

to at least one electric appliance attached to the computer system.

20. (New) The software module of claim 1, wherein the new application or applet is launched as

a result of navigating to a web page.

21. (New) The software module of claim 1, wherein the new application or applet is launched as

a result of opening the new application or applet.

22. (New) The software module of claim 1, wherein modifying the graphical user interface further comprises registering the new application or applet for the functionality when the functionality already exists in the graphical user interface.

23. (New) The software module of claim 22, wherein registering the new application or applet causes the application or applet to be notified when a command is initiated to execute the functionality.

24. (New) The software module of claim 1, wherein the functionality of the application or applet and the new functionality of the new application or applet are controllable by the graphical user interface.

25. (New) The shared graphical user interface of claim 7, wherein redefining the shared graphical user interface further comprises:

registering the applications or applets for the functionality when the functionality already exists in the shared graphical user interface.

26. (New) The shared graphical user interface of claim 7, wherein redefining the shared graphical user interface further comprises:

comparing each functionality of the applications or applets with functionality of the shared graphical user interface.

27. (New) The shared graphical user interface of claim 7, wherein the shared graphical user interface allows access to at least one electric appliance.

28. (New) The shared graphical user interface of claim 7, wherein the applications or applets are launched as a result of navigating to a web page.

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29. (New) The shared graphical user interface of claim 7, wherein the applications or applets are launched as a result of opening the applications or applets.

Remarks

Claims 2-6 and 8-11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 7 are amended, and claims 12-29 are added. As a result, claims 1, 7, and 12-29 are pending. Applicant respectfully requests examination and allowance of all claims in view of the amendments above.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612-0371-2103) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0439.
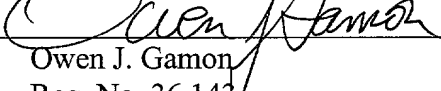
Respectfully submitted,

THEODORE D. WUGOFSKI

By their Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 371-2103

Date: _10/22/2001_   By _____
                              Owen J. Gamon
                              Reg. No. 36,143

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Date of Deposit: October 2v, 2001
This paper or fee is being deposited on the date indicated above with the United States Postal Service pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10, and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPH

The graphical user interface of the embodiments of the invention overcomes the limited OSDs and lack of windowing in many consumer electronics appliances. This allows the user to access the functionality of the various appliances which may be present.

CLEAN VERSION OF PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A software module stored on a machine readable medium for programming a graphical user interface, responsive to functionality information supplied by or retrieved from an application or applet, the software capable of modifying the graphical user interface when a new application or applet is launched, wherein modifying the graphical user interface further comprises adding new functionality of the new application or applet to the graphical user interface if the new functionality does not already exist in the graphical user interface.

7. (Amended) A shared graphical user interface capable of control of a plurality of computer applications or applets, the shared graphical user interface being defined and redefined as different applications or applets are launched, by receiving information from the applets or from software designed to retrieve the functionality of the applications or applets, wherein redefining the shared graphical user interface further comprises adding new functionality of the applications or applets to the shared graphical user interface if the new functionality does not already exist in the graphical user interface.

12. (New) A computer system, comprising:

        a central processing unit; and

        a machine readable medium comprising machine readable instructions, which when read and executed by the central processing unit, cause the computer system to perform a method comprising:

                defining a graphical user interface responsive to functionality of a first application loaded onto the computer system, and

                redefining the graphical user interface responsive to functionality of a second application loaded onto the computer so as to control both the first and the second applications with the graphical user interface, wherein redefining further comprises adding the functionality of the second application to the graphical user interface if the

functionality of the second application does not already exist in the graphical user

interface.

13. (New) The computer system of claim 12, wherein defining the graphical user interface

further comprises:

adding each function of the first application to the graphical user interface; and

registering each function of the application for notification by the graphical user interface when a

user initiates a command calling for a registered function.

14. (New) The computer system of claim 12, wherein redefining the graphical user interface

further comprises:

retrieving the functionality of the second application.

15. (New) The computer system of claim 14, wherein redefining the graphical user interface

further comprises:

comparing each function of the second application with functions of the defined graphical

user interface.

16. (New) The computer system of claim 15, wherein redefining the graphical user interface

further comprises:

registering the function of the second application with the database for notification by the

graphical user interface when a user initiates a command calling for the registered function if the

function of the new application is already present in the graphical user interface.

17. (New) The computer system of claim 15, wherein redefining the graphical user interface

further comprises:

adding the function of the second application to the graphical user interface if the

function of the new application is not already present in the graphical user interface.

18. (New) The computer system of claim 15, wherein redefining the graphical user interface comprises:

      registering the function of the second application for notification by the graphical user interface when a command is initiated that calls for the registered function.

19. (New) The computer system of claim 12, wherein the graphical user interface allows access to at least one electric appliance attached to the computer system.

20. (New) The software module of claim 1, wherein the new application or applet is launched as a result of navigating to a web page.

21. (New) The software module of claim 1, wherein the new application or applet is launched as a result of opening the new application or applet.

22. (New) The software module of claim 1, wherein modifying the graphical user interface further comprises registering the new application or applet for the functionality when the functionality already exists in the graphical user interface.

23. (New) The software module of claim 22, wherein registering the new application or applet causes the application or applet to be notified when a command is initiated to execute the functionality.

24. (New) The software module of claim 1, wherein the functionality of the application or applet and the new functionality of the new application or applet are controllable by the graphical user interface.

25. (New) The shared graphical user interface of claim 7, wherein redefining the shared
graphical user interface further comprises:

      registering the applications or applets for the functionality when the functionality already
exists in the shared graphical user interface.

26. (New) The shared graphical user interface of claim 7, wherein redefining the shared
graphical user interface further comprises:

      comparing each functionality of the applications or applets with functionality of the
shared graphical user interface.

27. (New) The shared graphical user interface of claim 7, wherein the shared graphical user
interface allows access to at least one electric appliance.

28. (New) The shared graphical user interface of claim 7, wherein the applications or applets are
launched as a result of navigating to a web page.

29. (New) The shared graphical user interface of claim 7, wherein the applications or applets are
launched as a result of opening the applications or applets.